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The Economic Bulletin

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PERSONAL AND MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.¹

The annual meeting at Atlantic City occurred under the most favorable conditions of weather and with most comfortable hotel accommodations. Many expressions of pleasure were heard regarding the opportunity for social intercourse among the members. The meeting at the same time of the American Statistical Association, the American Sociological Society and the American Association for Labor Legislation brought together an unusual number of students interested in economic questions, but approaching them from different sides. The combined programs of these associations offered an unusually rich variety. The complete papers and proceedings of these societies will appear in various volumes, and we may note here only some matters of business of especial interest to members of the Economic Association.

In the first session of the Association it was announced that the Executive Committee had voted in favor of the appointment of a committee to arrange for a fitting celebration of the approaching twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Association, and

¹ Each number of the BULLETIN will contain a department of Personal and Miscellaneous Notes. These notes will cover recent appointments to academic, governmental and other scientific positions in the field of economics; announcements of scientific investigations being made, of meetings of learned societies; and notices of other events of interest to economists.

The success of this feature of the BULLETIN will depend largely upon the support given it by economic students throughout the country; and the editors earnestly solicit the coöperation of all members of the Association. Notes should be sent to the Managing Editor as early as possible, and wherever practicable should be written on the ordinary 3 x 5 index card. The next number of the BULLETIN will go to press about May 1st.

that the President had appointed as such a committee Messrs. Seligman (Chairman), James, Ely, Jenks, and Emery. The committee reported in favor of holding the celebration in conjunction with the Historical Association at New York City in December, 1909, and this recommendation was approved by the Association.

A special committee was constituted to consider suggestions regarding the policy as to publications and as to the office of secretary and treasurer. The committee consisted of Messrs. Seligman, Fetter, Gardner, Gray and Miller. This committee reported at a later session against discontinuing at the present time the Quarterly Publications, but in favor of diminishing the amount of material to be issued during 1909, the Papers and Proceedings, however, to be published in full. These recommendations were adopted with the amendment that the general question of enlarging the **BULLETIN** and unifying the publications be submitted to a special committee of nine, to be appointed by the President and to report at the next annual meeting. The following committee was appointed by President Patten: Messrs. Kinley (Chairman), Crook, Fetter, Gardner, Glasson, Hammond, Hollander, Meeker and Robinson.

A most important feature in the report of the committee on nominations, which was adopted by the Association, was the nominating of Prof. Davis R. Dewey of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for president of the Association. Professor Dewey had, on the desire of President Patten, acted as chairman of the programme committee with unusual duties during the past year. When President Patten declined reelection, the choice of Professor Dewey met with universal approval. As vice-presidents were chosen Willard Fisher, professor of economics in Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn.; Fabian Franklin, the scholarly editor of the *Baltimore News*; and F. B. Hawley, sometime treasurer of the Association, whose recent fresh and vigorous contributions to economic theory called forth this merited recognition.

An important change was involved in the appointment of T. N. Carver, professor in Harvard University, to the offices of secretary and treasurer. The business office of the Association is thus moved to Cambridge, and all correspondence of a business nature should be addressed to Professor Carver.

In all of the discussions of the meeting and in the personal conferences of the members a hopeful and progressive spirit was mani-

fest. The meeting adjourned with exceptional prospects of success for the twenty-fifth anniversary to be held next December.

While our Association has shown a healthy growth during its entire existence, yet every one must feel that our membership list is much smaller than it ought to be; that we ought to enlist in our work a much larger number of men from all walks of life. It is especially fitting as we approach the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of our existence as an organization, that we should make a special effort to increase our numbers. This feeling was definitely and emphatically expressed at our recent meeting in Atlantic City. The secretary and treasurer hereby appeals to every one of our members to coöperate toward this end.

A significant movement of recent years has been the growth and influence of economic clubs, business men's organizations, and men's clubs in churches, all of which give most of their attention to social and economic questions. The American Economic Association ought to be in the closest possible touch with all these organizations. As a step in this direction it is proposed to publish news of the economic clubs in the BULLETIN. Our members are requested to send in interesting items of news from these clubs in various parts of the field—items such as significant discussions and resolutions, practical results attained, etc., and also to call to the attention of these clubs the advantages which the BULLETIN can offer as a clearing house of club news. Members are also requested to send to the Secretary and Treasurer, T. N. Carver, Cambridge, Mass., names and addresses of men who are active in these clubs, and who might be interested in our Association.

Attention is called to the provision of the Constitution regarding membership that "any person interested in economic inquiry may, on the nomination of a member, be enrolled in this Association by paying \$3, and after the first year may continue a member by paying an annual fee of three dollars."

T. S. Adams, professor of political economy in the University of Wisconsin, is delivering a course of lectures at Leland Stanford University on Labor Problems and Public Finance.

Mr. Ernest Aves and a staff of assistants is spending several months in the United States, conducting an inquiry into wages and the cost of living in this country for the British Board of Trade. Two important Parliamentary documents have recently been published on *Working Class Rents, Housing and Retail Prices* and on *Rates of Wages* in the United Kingdom and in Germany. Similar inquiries are now being carried on for France and Belgium.

The American Sociological Society will hold its next meeting in New York City. The general topic will be Religion and Modern Society.

Les Annales de la Regie Directe is a new international review, edited by Prof. Edgar Milhaud, of the University of Geneva, and published at Geneva. The review is to appear bimonthly, the first number being for November–December, 1908. The title perhaps does not fully indicate its scope, which includes propaganda in favor of all movements not only for public ownership but for eventual “*entière liberation socialiste*.” Brief articles and a chronicle of contemporary events make up the first number of 32 pages. The subscription price is 8 francs per year.

At the December meeting of the Council of the Royal Economic Society of London, Dr. Norris A. Brisco was elected a fellow. This is Dr. Brisco’s second honor from abroad, as last year he was elected fellow of the Royal Historical Society. These elections come partly from the favorable reception of his book, *The Economic Policy of Robert Walpole*.

Miss Lucile Canes, of Berkeley, Cal., has taken the position of associate professor in the department of politics and sociology in the University of Nebraska.

Prof. Fred M. Davenport, of Hamilton College, was elected to the New York State Senate in November. Dr. Davenport made the speech nominating Elihu Root for the United States Senate.

A collection of American city charters is being made by the library of the Harvard Law School.

Mr. H. P. Fairchild, who is writing a thesis on Greek immigration and who is a candidate for the degree of Ph.D. from Yale University next June, has been appointed to the chair of political economy at Bowdoin college, where he will take up his work next September.

A series of eight lectures is being given in the City of Grand Rapids, Mich., under the auspices of the Grand Rapids Public Library, on the work of the several boards and departments of the city government. The lecturers are all public officials of the city.

William Hill has been appointed associate professor of the economics of agriculture, and head of the agricultural guild of the University of Chicago. The guild gives instruction and practical training in the economics of agriculture to graduates of agricultural colleges.

Robert F. Hoxie has been promoted to an assistant professorship in political economy at the University of Chicago.

Among the ten lectures being delivered at Columbia University this year under the auspices of the Henry Bergh Foundation for the Promotion of Humane Education are:

The Influence of Humane Ideals and Practices in Human Civilization, by Prof. Franklin H. Giddings of Columbia University; The Humane Treatment of Children, by Homer Folk, secretary of the New York State Charities Aid Association; The Humane Treatment of Criminals, by Samuel J. Barrows, president of the International Prison Commission; and The Economic Aspect of the Humane Treatment of Children and Animals, by Dr. Roswell C. McCrea of the New York School of Philanthropy.

Francis W. Hirst, editor of the London *Economist*, journeyed through the United States during the latter part of the year. He spent most of his time in Washington, New York and Boston, and had many interviews on financial subjects with prominent business men, bankers and public officials. He lectured at Harvard and at Columbia.

The International Institute of Social Bibliography is about to undertake, with characteristic German thoroughness, the publica-

tion periodically of bibliographies covering the social sciences. In February, 1906, the Reichstag by a unanimous vote recommended to the federated German governments to subsidize the Institute.

The members of the committee of organization are Adolf Wagner, Lujo Brentano, E. V. Phillippovich, Karl Menger, Ch. Gide, Sidney Webb, E. R. Pease and von Tugan Baranowsky.

The range of work will include theoretical and practical economics, sociology and social politics, the theory and practice of finance, industrial and social statistics, colonial affairs, industrial and social history, criminology, civic duties, commercial science and industrial geography. The bibliography will cover publications in nearly all the European countries and in America.

The publications are to include "an international bibliography appearing monthly," "a bibliographical almanac which will include the contents of all the monthly publications," "monographs covering as a rule the last preceding decade of a special literary branch, an international guide to periodicals, and a guide to public libraries, in respect to the subjects within the scope of the Institute."

Mr. Douglas Knoop, best known to Americans as the author of *American Business Enterprise*, has been appointed to a lectureship in economics at the University of Manchester.

Prof. J. Laurence Laughlin, of the University of Chicago, has returned to his academic duties after several months leave of absence during which he attended the Pan-American Scientific Congress.

In December Prof. Emile Levasseur celebrated his eightieth birthday, the fortieth anniversary of his connection with the Collège de France and his fiftieth anniversary as a teacher. His friends presented him with a medal, and "academic Paris, led by the Minister of Public Instruction, turned out to do him honor." The New York *Nation* quoting from the *Temps* says, that "he is the greenest, liveliest, busiest old man ever seen, always ready to go to distant congresses and never overcome by the longest debates, the richest banquets, or the dullest addresses."

The local government provisions of the new Michigan Constitution which was approved November 3, 1908, are said to agree more nearly with the principles of the Municipal Programme of the National Municipal League, than those of any other state.

Dr. Frank L. McVey, at present chairman of the Minnesota Tax Commission, has been elected president of the University of North Dakota to succeed President Webster Merrifield, who has resigned after twenty-five years of service as professor and president in the University.

A memorandum by Professor Marshall, on The Fiscal Policy of International Trade, prepared in 1903 at the request of a member of the British Cabinet, was printed November 11, 1908, by the House of Commons, as House document number 321.

A fund was collected some time ago by a group of British economists and other interested persons to secure the painting of a picture of Professor Marshall. The painting was done by William Rothenstein, and is said to be an excellent likeness. It was exhibited at the recent International Exhibition of Sculptors, Painters and Gravers in London.

Senator Nelson W. Aldrich, Chairman of the National Monetary Commission, with Mr. H. P. Davidson, of the First National Bank of New York City, and Prof. A. Piatt Andrew, of Harvard University, delegates of that body, returned to the United States in the late autumn after three months investigation of European banking. Stenographic reports of the testimony taken by them from bankers, government officials and financial experts in the leading European capitals will be presented to Congress at its next session. In the meantime, American and European authorities upon banking have been engaged to prepare monographs and to collect statistics with regard to different phases of banking history and banking practice in all of the more important countries. A considerable number, also, of the best modern French, German and Italian works in that domain are being translated and the report of the Commission, which will comprise many volumes, should constitute a unique repository of information about banking matters. Among the American contributors to this report, we note the following: Prof. W. G. Sumner, Prof. Davis R. Dewey, Prof. O.

M. W. Sprague, Prof. E. W. Kemmerer, Prof. David Kinley, Andrew MacFarland Davis, Alexander D. Noyes, Paul M. Warburg, John E. Gardin, Charles A. Conant, L. M. Jacobs and Sam'l A. Welldon. Professor Andrew has general supervision of the Commission's publications, which will probably begin to appear early in the coming summer.

The Massachusetts Commission appointed in 1907 to make an investigation and report with reference to the advisability of establishing a system of old age pensions, annuities and insurance, issued a preliminary report in January. (Mass. House Doc. No. 10.) The report outlines the plan of the inquiry, contains appendices explaining the systems of old pensions and insurance in foreign countries and the pension systems of American railroads and industrial corporations. The Commission requests that it be extended until January 15, 1909, in order to properly complete the investigation.

The Minnesota Academy of Social Sciences held its second annual meeting at the University of Minnesota on December 3 and 4. The general title of the programme was the Commonwealth of Minnesota. Papers were presented on the timber, iron ore and land situation in the State. Other papers dealt with the development of railroads, social legislation and the school system. The proceedings will be published about April first.

L. C. Marshall has been promoted to an associate professorship in political economy at the University of Chicago.

The National Municipal League will shortly appoint a committee on city budgets and finances as authorized at the Pittsburgh meeting. The League has felt for some time that the greatest obstacle in the way of classification of expenditures and making reports along the lines arranged by it and by all other civic organizations consisted in the present antiquated method of preparing the budgets of American cities. The new committee on city budgets and finances will work for uniform reports along the lines so well formulated by the old committee, and will seek to secure the preparation of city budgets of a character that will readily permit the preparation of reports such as the League desires.

The Legislative Reference Bureau of the Indiana State Library has published a bulletin entitled *Local Option by Election*, showing the present statutory conditions in the several states regarding local option by election. Various other methods by which localities determine for themselves the question of licensing the liquor traffic, by petitions or remonstrances, or by the use of laws designating prohibited areas around churches and schools are not included in these summaries. Accompanying the bulletin is a map showing the states in which there is no provision for local option, those in which there is a county unit, those in which there is a unit less than the county, and those where there is state prohibition.

The Proceedings of the Pittsburgh meeting of the National Municipal League were published in February. Considerable attention is given to the matter of the establishment of reference libraries at the coming session of the Illinois and Pennsylvania legislatures. The Governor of Pennsylvania has recommended the establishment of such a bureau. If these two states are added to the list the roll will be increased to 10.

J. M. Motley, assistant professor of economics in Stanford University, is supervising an extensive investigation into the housing problems of San Francisco resulting from the earthquake of April, 1906. This investigation forms part of a general study of the methods of relief used in San Francisco which is being carried on under the auspices of the Sage Foundation.

Eugene B. Patton of the University of Chicago, has been appointed instructor in political economy at the University of Rochester.

A very considerable amount of interest is being manifested in the matter of public comfort stations, and a series of interesting reports are being published on them. In addition to the authoritative pamphlet of the American Civic Association prepared by Frederick L. Ford, city engineer of Hartford, Conn., the Civic League of St. Louis has issued a carefully prepared and well illustrated report on Public Comfort Stations for St. Louis. The

committee having the preparation of the report in charge declared that it had found from the survey of other cities that there is a very general movement in American municipalities to provide these much needed public conveniences.

Prof. Carl C. Plehn of the University of California is to go abroad in May for his sabbatical year.

John A. Ryan, professor of ethics and economics at St. Paul Seminary, has been made chairman of the recently formed Minnesota Child Labor Committee. He has also been appointed as one of the lecturers in the department of economics of the St. Paul Institute of Arts and Sciences.

The annual Huxley lecture for 1908 before the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain was delivered by Prof. William Z. Ripley of Harvard University at London on November 13, 1908. The lecture was followed by the presentation of the Huxley Medal to the lecturer, an honor conferred in recognition of the particular merits of his book entitled *The Races of Europe* and of the general excellence of his research work in the field of demography. The subject of the lecture was the European Population of the United States; an outline of the problem of racial intermixture due to immigration. The lecture is published in the journal of the Institute; and some portions of it are published in the *Atlantic Monthly* for December, 1908. The invitation to deliver this lecture must be regarded as a distinct and noteworthy recognition of American scholarship.

The subject of the quarterly meeting of the Royal Economic Society, which was held in London, November 10, was Railway Nationalization. The two principle papers were by Professor Cohn and Sir George Gibbs, copies of these papers can be obtained on payment of 6d. by application to the Secretary at the office of the Society.

Adam Shortt, formerly professor in Queens University, Ontario, has been appointed chairman of the new Canadian Civil Service Commission.

Oscar D. Skelton has been appointed head of the department of political economy at Queen's University. William W. Swanson is assistant professor at the same institution.

A. W. Taylor has accepted an instructorship in economics at Purdue University. He has been for some time a graduate student in the University of Wisconsin.

Prof. F. W. Taussig appeared by invitation before the Ways and Means Committee at Washington on December 15, and presented suggestions for the revision of the tariff.

Prof. C. W. A. Veditz, of the George Washington University, secretary of the American Sociological Society, has been appointed a special agent of the United States Bureau of Labor to investigate child labor laws and their enforcement on the European continent. He has secured leave of absence from the University for a portion of the present academic year and will devote several months to the preparation of his report.

Western Reserve University has recently inaugurated a series of public evening lectures, a large proportion of which are upon economic and sociological subjects.

Joseph Wharton, the founder of the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce at the University of Pennsylvania, died at his home in Philadelphia, on January 11.

Henry Chapman Watson, editor of *Dun's Review* and a well known writer on commercial and financial subjects, died January 6, at the age of 38. He was the compiler of *Dun's Index Numbers* and of *Dun's Commercial Failures*.

The University of Wisconsin library has recently been presented with the private library of the late Henry Demarest Lloyd, the author of *Wealth Against Commonwealth* and other well known books. The library collected by Mr. Lloyd is said to be particularly rich in material on trade unions, coöperation, socialism, municipal ownership and monopolies.

The Society for the Promotion of Social Service of the Young Men's Christian Association composed of its active secretaries held its second annual conference to consider social problems, in Chicago February 12 and 13. The topic for the conference was The Associations' Obligations to the Juvenile Delinquent. It is a matter of import that this great organization is taking up so thoroughly the whole question of social service, and is seeking to work out a plan whereby it can be more helpful along these lines.

Anna Pritchett Youngman, formerly of the University of Chicago, has been appointed instructor in political economy at Wellesley College.

The following communication with reference to the unfortunate death of Dr. Max West is printed at the request of the committee whose names appear below:

The members of the Association have no doubt read of the recent death, under most unfortunate circumstances, of Dr. Max West, of the Bureau of Corporations, Department of Labor, Washington, D. C.

Dr. West died after a short illness, a slight cold developing into pneumonia. He has left a wife and five children, ranging from thirteen years to only nine months, with no visible means of support, save a very small annuity terminable in ten years. Friends in Washington have contributed a considerable sum for immediate needs, including the expenses pertaining to Dr. West's sickness and death, and have secured for Mrs. West a temporary position in the Government, which we hope will become a permanent position. This, with the closest economy, will enable Mrs. West to look after the bare physical needs of her five little children, but will leave no margin at all either for education or for contingencies.

It has therefore occurred to us and to some of the other friends of Dr. West that it might be possible to solicit and collect a fund for such a purpose. It is hoped to raise a fund of at least \$5000. The suggestion is to be sent to all those who may be supposed to have known Dr. West personally, or to be in sympathy with the scholarly work for which he stood, and the committee will be very glad to receive any subscriptions that you may deem fit to make.

Checks may be sent to Mr. Edwin R. A. Seligman, at No. 324 West 86th street, New York, who has consented to act as treasurer for the committee.

Respectfully yours,

EDWIN R. A. SELIGMAN,
Columbia University.

JACOB H. HOLLANDER,
Johns Hopkins University.

E. DANA DURAND,
Dept. of Commerce and Labor, Washington.

Dr. Max West died of pneumonia at his home in Washington, D. C., on January 7, 1909.

Dr. West was born at St. Cloud, Minnesota, in November, 1870. He was graduated from the University of Minnesota at nineteen, and went at first into newspaper work. In 1891 he went to Columbia University as a fellow in economics. There he received his master's degree the next year, and his doctorate the year following. From 1893 to 1895 he was connected with the University of Chicago, first as an honorary fellow and then as a docent. The great railroad strike of 1894 drew him again into newspaper work; he reported it for the *Chicago Herald*. In 1895 he was an editorial writer for the *Chicago Record*. During the academic year 1895-1896 he lectured at Columbia.

In 1896 he entered the government service, to which the rest of his life was chiefly devoted. For four years he was connected with the Division of Statistics of the Department of Agriculture, and for nearly two years with the Industrial Commission. During the latter part of this period, from 1900 to 1902, he was also associate professor of economics in Columbian University, Washington, and in 1902 he again lectured at Columbia. In that year he became assistant registrar of the Tenement House Department of New York City. In 1903 he went to Porto Rico as chief of the island Bureau of Internal Revenue. His health did not permit him to continue there, and in 1904 he returned to Washington as a special examiner of the Bureau of Corporations. Here he remained until his death.

Dr. West's chief published work was *The Inheritance Tax*, which appeared in 1893, was translated into French in 1895, and was republished in a revised and enlarged edition in 1907. A projected work, entitled *Principles of Taxation*, is left unfinished. He wrote many articles for periodicals, dealing oftenest with taxation, but sometimes with sociological subjects, questions of constitutional law, and other topics.

More of Dr. West's scanty strength than he could well spare was devoted to the promotion of public well-being. During his two years in Chicago he was a resident successively of Hull House, the University of Chicago Settlement, and the Chicago Commons. At Washington he was warmly interested in social settlement work and in the Associated Charities, and he was the most active and efficient member of the Civic Center.

Dr. Karl Theodor Inama-Sternegg, professor of political and economic science at the University of Vienna, and president of the International Statistical Institute, died on November 28, 1908, after a very brief illness. He was one of the keenest and most prolific writers of the historical school of economics and at the same time was deeply interested in social and industrial statistics and their relation to practical affairs. His most important single literary work was the *Deutsche Wirtschaftsgeschichte*, in three large volumes, covering German economic history to the close of the middle ages. He was one of the founders and editors of the *Zeitschrift für Volkswirtschaft, Sozialpolitik und Verwaltung*, has conducted the reorganization of the Austrian census methods, has supervised the official publications of the Central Statistical Commission and has had various connections with other statistical publications. In spite of extraordinary activity in scientific research and practical affairs, he continued his university connections almost up to his death. He brought his wide experience into the class room and thus vitalized his relations with his students. The following is an epitomized history of his life: He was born at Augsburg, January 20, 1843, a descendant of a prominent family; studied history, jurisprudence and politics at Munich, where he was made docent in 1867; became professor at Innsbruck in 1868; professor at Prague in

1880; head of the Statistical Bureau at Vienna and professor at the University of Vienna in 1881; president of the Central Statistical Commission in 1884 and life member of the Upper House of the Austrian Reichsrat in 1891. His life was a very active one, and through his death economic science has lost a worker of the highest order.
